

MIAMI BEACH BRIEFS

A Publication for the Citizens and Neighborhoods of the City of Miami Beach

www.ci.miami-beach.fl.us

Volume III, Issue 10. Fall 2001

Communications Corner

"SINCE YOU ASKED..."

Third Thursday of Every Month in The Miami Herald
Beach Neighbors
or e-mail your questions to:
305-673-2023 or jcalderon@herald.com



Tune-in to Cable Channel 20 for
Commission meetings & the
City's E-News.



Learn what's happening in
the City by visiting the
City's Website at
www.ci.miami-beach.fl.us

Miami Beach Briefs is produced as part of Neighborhoods First. For comments and/or suggestions about this publication, contact the Media Relations Office at 305-673-7575 (ph), 305-673-7229 (fax) or e-mail us at pio@ci.miami-beach.fl.us

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CiviCall
(For Information & Comments)
305-604-CITY (2489)

Office of the Mayor and Commission
305-673-7030

Office of the City Manager
305-673-7010

Police (non-emergency)
305-673-7900

Fire (non-emergency)
305-673-7120

Parks & Recreation
305-673-7730

Parking
305-673-PARK

Neighborhood Services
305-673-7077

City Job Hotline
305-673-7777

City Clerk
305-673-7411

**Bulky Waste
Pick-Up Appointment**
305-638-3800

**Water &
Sewer**
305-673-7625



Miami Beach Initiates Economic Stimulus Package

The effects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks have extended far beyond ground zero and have rippled throughout the nation's economy, with particularly adverse impacts to the tourist-related industries and resident businesses.

To this end, the City of Miami Beach has implemented temporary measures that will provide relief while confidence is restored in the economy. The City's local economic relief package, when combined with state and federal efforts, will provide greater relief to the City's businesses, visitors and the resident workforce. Highlights include:

- ◆ A combined allocation of \$250,000 from the City and the Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority towards the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau's marketing campaign.

- ◆ Extension of the due date for payment of occupational licenses from October 1 to December 1, 2001 with no late charges/penalties.

- ◆ Extension of the due date for payment of sidewalk café permits from October 1 to December 1, 2001 with no late charges/penalties.

- ◆ First hour is at no cost in all municipal parking garages until December 1, 2001.

- ◆ 20 percent discount on parking smart cards.

- ◆ Free Electrowave shuttle service after 9:00 p.m. until December 1, 2001.

- ◆ Extension of code compliance times/deadlines for non-life safety and non-quality of life code violations.

- ◆ Enhancement of services by the Building/Fire Departments that provide for plans review and inspection services on non-work hours; increasing hours and increasing efficiency to assist current projects.

- ◆ Establishment of film and print production incentives that are designed to further ease how productions can work and succeed in Miami Beach. They include parking solutions, scouting passes and beach

access.

- ◆ The sponsorship and production of a free Veterans Day benefit concert on the beach featuring *NSYNC and Friends on November 11, 2001.

City staff is working with other agencies to implement a tracking system for unemployment/employment in all industry sectors similar to hotel occupancy tracking. This information will allow the City to target federal and state funding incentives that are available to distressed businesses and displaced workers. The City has also established a relationship with the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Center and will help facilitate local businesses' access to their services.

While Miami Beach has made great strides to diversify its industry base, attracting over \$200 billion of new private investment in the retail, commercial, cultural and entertainment industries, the recent events have made it clearly evident that the City has a largely tourism dependent economy. Miami Beach is projecting a 20 percent reduction in tourism revenues that fund City tourist-related expenses representing a potential impact of \$6 million to the City's budget. Along with other joint regional efforts, the City has increased its tourism promotions with internet contests and prizes (www.ci.miami-beach.fl.us) and continues to staff its 24-hour tourism hotline (305-673-7400).

The City has also sent a package of additional relief proposals for presentation to the Florida Legislature and U.S. Congress.

Fortunately, the City of Miami Beach is in a sound fiscal condition with strong reserves and will be undergoing millions of dollars of infrastructure improvements over the next few years that will certainly position Miami Beach into an even better place to work, live and play.



FREE * Sun, Nov 11 * 8 ST & Ocean * Performances begin at 5:00 p.m.
Use Park & Ride Systems * No coolers, chairs, radios, umbrellas, glass containers, and alcohol
VIP Ticket & Concession Proceeds will Benefit the Families of the Terrorist Attack Victims & Local Displaced Workers

City's Mission Statement

"We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work, and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community."

Mayor Neisen O. Kasdin • Commissioners: Matti Herrera Bower, Simon Cruz, David Dermer, Luis R. Garcia, Jr., Nancy Liebman, Jose Smith
City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez • City Attorney Murray H. Dubbin • City Clerk Robert Parcher

AT YOUR SERVICE!



From Left, Rear, John De Pazos, Carl Hastings, Ronnie Singer, Walter Reddick, Donald Shockley, Jacqueline Valdes, Michel Magloire; second row, Ivan Marquez, Kristin McKew, John Valencia, Miriam Sosa, Irene Ginori, Tim Hemstreet; bottom, Joyce Meyers, Guadalupe Ferran. Not Pictured, John Kranick, Jorge Chartrand, Mark Alvarez, Nancy El Amir, Rafael Leyva.

The 1999 voter approval of a \$92 million General Obligation Bond issue, coupled with the adoption of the City's Stormwater masterplan and other funded public improvements, has been leveraged into over \$400 million of work. This has enabled the City to embark in an unprecedented amount of much-needed above ground and infrastructure improvements, as well as renovations to each of the City's parks, golf courses and two of its fire stations. Virtually every neighborhood of the City will be enhanced through a "Planned Progress" approach.

The primary goal of the **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Office** is to ensure that careful planning, design, and management result in projects with a minimum of inconvenience to the public and optimal results throughout the beautiful city.

The CIP Office is divided into a planning section and a project management section. In the planning area, each coordinator orchestrates all of the CIP planning activities within that geographic area including community input and public education. And, the project manager coordinates and directs construction management activities by the City and program management companies such as Hazen and Sawyer, URS, and other subcontractors. Each of those sections are divided into the City's three regions (North, Middle and South) to allow familiarity with the region and to better coordinate activities within that particular area. They will all work together with other staff members of that region.

The CIP Office is making every effort to communicate with each affected neighborhood during the planning, design, and construction phases of the projects. For more information on the "Planned Progress" for your neighborhood, please contact the CIP Community Information Manager at 305-673-7010 or go to www.cmbprojects.com.

The Miami Beach Police Department Offers Free Crime Prevention Tips and Seminars for Residents and Businesses.
Call 305-673-7813 for more information.

KNOW THE CODES



Maintenance of Docks, Piers, Pilings & Boat Ramps

The City Code (Section 66) requires that docks, piers, pilings and boat ramps located behind any private property must be maintained properly. They must not be a hazard to navigation, life and property, and pollution of the waterways. You must obtain the proper building permits to build or make repairs on or to these structures. Failure to make necessary repairs to damaged structures or to place barriers to prevent persons to go upon is a violation of the City Code. For information on the City's marine standards, contact the Code Compliance Division at 305-673-7555.

Miami Beach Property Owners Entitled to Increased Flood Insurance Discounts

The City of Miami Beach's rating in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has been upgraded from a Class 8 to a Class 7 and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a result, City of Miami Beach Property owners are entitled to a 15 percent discount on flood insurance policies issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2001. This translates into approximately \$1,531,500 annual premium discounts for 35,733 current flood insurance policy holders within the City of Miami Beach. The upgraded rating will remain valid for a period of five years until the next verification visit by FEMA. The savings on flood insurance premiums for the residents of Miami Beach would total far over \$7,650,000 for this rating period, considering the addition of new flood insurance policies for all new developments that have not been completed. Miami Beach flood insurance policy holders should contact their insurance carrier for more information on their rate discount. For more information on flood zones, contact the City of Miami Beach Building Department at 673-7000, ext 6708, 6770 or 6801. In addition, the Miami-Dade Public Library, Miami Beach Branch, 2100 Collins Avenue, provides flood protection information and maintains copies of Miami Beach Flood Insurance Rate Maps.



City Paves the Way for New Regional Library

Derelict property that stood on the proposed site of the new 47,000 square-foot regional library will soon be demolished to lay the groundwork for the commencement of construction. The library will be located at Liberty Avenue and 22nd Street in the Collins Park Cultural Center. The project is slated for completion by the spring of 2003.

Security Measures Heightened

The City would like to assure the public that every precaution is being pursued to insure the welfare of everyone who lives and visits the City. The City has created an action plan which calls for greater security throughout the neighborhoods and City government facilities. While many of these initiatives may create inconveniences, it is pivotal that the community recognizes the greater need for the implementation of such measures. Those visiting City Hall will notice added security check-ins. Also among the security enhancements is the formation of a Miami Beach Task Force on Public Safety. Police has increased patrols throughout the City as well as in certain locations deemed sensitive. The City has been actively participating in the countywide Terrorism Response System Plan and the Southeast Regional Anti-Terrorism Task Force. If you have any information regarding a crime, contact the Miami Beach Police at 305-673-7900.

QUICK BITES...



Enjoy a **free** celebration of the arts every 2nd Thursday of the month
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Call 305-673-7500 or 2ndthursdays.com



20% Discount
Until December 1
Parking Debit Cards

The Easiest Way to Park

Call 305-673-7505 or
305-673-PARK (7275)



Please Continue Voluntary Water Conservation Efforts

Mandatory water restrictions have been lifted. For information on how to conserve water, log on to www.sfwmd.gov or call 1-800-662-8876.